GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2597
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
INTERNET SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide internet service in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed therefor; and

(d) the number of Cities and Panchayat/Block samities in rural areas connected with internet at present?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): Internet facility is available in all the District Headquarters of the country. Internet facility has been extended to 5513 Block Headquarters (Both Rural & Urban) of the country as on 31.10.2001 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). BSNL, through th scheme of Internet Dhabas set up through franchises, has provided Internet Dialup connection to 2866 Internet Dhabas in both Rural and Urban Block Headquarters as of 31.10.2001. To promote proliferation of Internet in Rural Areas, BSNL is offering free Internet access for the Internet Dhabas in the rural block headquarters. The Internet Dhaba franchises are also eligible for 25 percent of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) access charges as commission.